



The Monte Cassino Society

Furthering an interest in the Italian Campaign 1943—1945

NA15141

Welcome to our Summer newsletter

Summer 2019

Aim

To remember and further an interest in the experiences of all who took part in the Italian Campaign.

There have been a few changes to the team who run the Society. Mike and I are taking a back seat but will still be involved, while Stan, who has been our Treasurer since the formation of the Society is retiring and in future Diane Soady will be looking after our funds. Phil's wife Diane has worked in the background for many years and will be well known to many. Doreen, John, Phil and Paul will continue as in the past. My sincere thanks to Stan for holding the purse strings for so many years and particularly for his involvement in the planning and construction of our Memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum.



I would like to introduce you to another two new members of the Committee. Our new Hon Secretary is Lesley Teasdale, daughter of the late Robert Randall, London Irish Rifles. Helen James will in future be publishing the newsletter. Helen is the daughter of the late James Frape, Shropshire Yeomanry. Both ladies feel passionately as I do about the Society and its aims – *'to remember and further an interest in the experiences of all who took part in the Italian Campaign'*.

And finally, last but by no means least, Lesley's husband Jez has agreed to take over from Mike as our Standard Bearer. Mike has been a stalwart committee member for many years. Together with Doreen he has organised our annual service at the Arboretum and latterly has taken on the role of Standard Bearer. We all owe him a great debt of thanks.

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I am confident that our new Committee will take us forward and build on what has been achieved so far.

Judith

Helen replies:-

As you will see from her message, Judith has retired as Secretary, a job she has carried out tirelessly for many years with great dedication and distinction. As Secretary Judith wore many hats, among them that of responsibility for publication of this newsletter. In taking over that role I am already beginning to appreciate that Judith will be a very hard act to follow. She has an immeasurable wealth of knowledge and experience, not only of individual members, veterans and their stories, but also in dealing with the various characters and bureaucracies involved in so many of the events attended by Society members over the years. I had not realised how difficult this could be, but some of the obstacles to be overcome in the constant fight for recognition, and the steely determination required in so doing, are well illustrated by Judith's excellent letter to the Minister and the account by Doreen Belcher of the Arboretum

services, both of which we print in this edition. I look forward to printing the reply, should one be received, to Judith's letter to the Minister.

Stan Pearson has also retired as Treasurer, and our sincere thanks go to Judith and Stan for all the hard work they have done for the Society over the years. Lesley, Diane and I are grateful that we will still be able to draw on their knowledge and expertise to help us in our new roles, and we hope you will bear with us as we try to get our heads around what we have taken on! We have each written a few lines by way of an introduction:-

Lesley Teasdale, Hon. Secretary



Further to Judith's kind introduction, I would like to let you know a little more about myself. My father fought through North Africa with the 1st Army, Sicily and then Italy with the 2nd Battalion, London Irish Rifles. In common with most of his generation, he talked little about his war experiences when I was growing up and it was only in his final years, when I was able to accompany him to the Arboretum, the Westminster Poppy Fields and the 70th Anniversary at Cassino itself, that I felt that that I understood a small fraction of what he and his compatriots had gone through and realised the importance of keeping their collective memories alive in the national consciousness. This is why I have agreed to succeed Judith as the Secretary; I hope that I am able to do as good a job as she has and don't let the Society down.

As for myself, I am a Nurse, I'm married to Jez (a former Sailor and himself the child of a WW2 Veteran) and we live in Plymouth with our two children.

Diane Soady, Treasurer

I will be taking over as treasurer from Stan Pearson who has served us well over the last few years and I hope I will be able to continue in his footsteps.

As some of you know, I am wife to Phil, sister in law to Jude and daughter in law to the late Gerald Soady. He is my connection to the Monte Cassino Society. I have now retired to Norfolk, so will have some time on my hands to be able to take this responsibility on.



Helen James, Newsletter



Daughter of James Frape, Signaller with the 75th Medium Regiment, Shropshire Yeomanry R.A.

Like so many veterans of Cassino and the Italian campaign, my dad never talked much about the war. It was only after his death that I first visited Cassino with one of his old comrades for the 70th commemoration, and was fascinated by the place, seeing the monumental task they faced, fighting in such terrain and conditions. Since joining the Society in 2014 I have learned a lot more about the Italian campaign, and

feel it should never be allowed to be forgotten.

I was pleased to meet Mike Murphy of the Shropshire Yeomanry Association at the Cassino Remembrance service. They are attached to the Territorial Army in Telford and are interested in bringing out recruits to Cassino as part of their battlefield tactical training programme. He was thinking of some sort of cooperation with the Monte Cassino Society in the future, so I am very interested to see what develops from this suggestion.

I am retired, married to Des, and we live near Ruthin in North Wales.

London Cenotaph Service and March, Sunday 10th November 2019

An application form is enclosed with this copy. If you wish to attend the Cenotaph service please complete this and send it to Liz Longman at the address given,

NO LATER THAN THURSDAY 1st AUGUST 2019.

The 75th Anniversary Ceremonies at the National Memorial Arboretum, on 11th May 2019

Report by Doreen Belcher, daughter of Sgt. Thomas Wain MM R.E.

The day started well – cloudy but dry, although the rainstorm I drove through on the way was a sign of things to come.

The Arboretum was packed, the car park full, and parking was in a field down the road.

The Ceremony was held in the covered area quite near both the Polish and Monte Cassino memorials, and it was led beautifully by Flight Lieutenant Mandeep Kaur, the Sikh Chaplain to the Armed Forces. Many nationalities were present, especially the Polish and Anzacs.

The Parade of the Veterans was led by the Standard Bearers. Our Standard, as always was carried proudly by Michael Anslow. He was nearly outdone though by the uniformed Polish Standard Bearer, who was escorted by two sword-bearing soldiers!

Various officers (Brigadier, Colonels, Captains, etc) then read reports and descriptions of the Battle for Monte Cassino, followed by a very moving rendition by Lance Corporal Singh of the song “Oh bury me out at Cassino”.

Lieutenant Colonel Ventura read the report of “Italy Liberated” and then Petty Officer Hicks sang our favourite “Ballad of the D Day Dodgers”, with many veterans joining in.

We then had the Act of Remembrance, which as always was very touching.

The British Legion served lunch, to which very few of our Society were invited. I was told afterwards that I hadn't missed much! In the meantime, I had a splendid lunch with our veterans Theo and Bob. It was lovely to see Theo because he has been extremely ill, and they were both sad to be missing our visit to Italy. Mike and Lyn joined us before going home.

Now alone, I attended the Polish ceremony at their memorial at 14.30. Again, it was standing room only. It was a similar service, with many wreaths being laid by all the Polish societies in the UK, as well as their national ones.

At 15.10 it was time for the ceremony at our memorial. Although it took place around our monument, we were not mentioned. Also, at this point the rain became really heavy.

We were told that only the wreaths of the British Legion and the Italy Star Association could be laid during the ceremony, with all others to be laid afterwards. Luckily I had laid mine quietly on my own before the service. It wasn't our usual very moving service, and I missed Tony, our Chaplain.

A lady from the Italy Star Association told the family of one of our veterans that it was their monument, and that they had built it. As the one who personally oversaw the whole project, and whose brother Major Peter Wain designed it, I was not best pleased!

But - on reflection, this really didn't matter. Today was all about the Veterans, and all who fought in Italy. They were “The D-Day Dodgers who'll stay in Italy”, and their sons, daughters and families will always remember them.



Giro d'Italia (Tour of Italy cycle race)

Some of you may have been aware that while we were in Cassino for the 2019 Ceremonies there was also a major cycling race taking place on Thursday 16th May. This is not an attempt by the Italians to cause chaos and upset the events by closing the roads but is a tribute to the town of Cassino.

The Giro first started in 1909 but was suspended during the two world wars. After the Second World War finished, the first Giro to be run was deliberately taken to Cassino to help build morale for the devastated town. Since then, it has been the tradition to return to Cassino every 5 years. This event not only brings status to the town it also brings much needed income.



Simon Yates

Helen, Paul and I took a taxi into town on Thursday morning to experience the razzmatazz that goes with a major cycling race. There was dancing, music, a parade of the cyclists and freebies given away. I had a good view of Simon Yates the leading British cyclist, Helen got a keyring and Paul had an ice-cream!

Des James



Richard Carapaz
(Eventual Winner)

The British service of Remembrance to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Italy Campaign and the Battles of Cassino, 16th May 2019.

It was raining heavily when our group of about 60 veterans, families and friends arrived in Cassino on 15th May, but fortunately the rain held off and the weather stayed dry for us during the Commemoration service at the Cassino CWG cemetery on the following day. As always the cemetery was immaculate, with lawns mowed, flowers blooming in abundance on the graves, and Monastery Hill dominating the scene.

Although a much lower-key occasion than the 70th Commemorations, the service was dignified and moving, and it was good to see the presence of so many Veterans, for whom covered seating was provided near the memorial. Dignitaries seated in the front row before the memorial included Jill Morris CMG, Her



Judith Coote with veterans Gordon Cruse,
Alex Sutton, Jim Knox, Ken Seager



Mike Anslow

Majesty's Ambassador to Italy, Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP, Undersecretary of State for Defence, and Sir Tim Laurence KCVO CB ADC(P), Vice Chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as well as many from other countries involved in the conflict.

The Standard bearers, including our own Mike Anslow, were led in by a lone piper of the Royal Scots Borderers to take their places behind the memorial, and the service of remembrance was led by the officiating Ministers Revd Robert Warren, Archdeacon of Italy and Malta, and Revd (Flt Lt) Caroline Harrison RAF.

Revd Warren gave the welcome address, followed by singing of the hymn “I vow to thee my Country” and a reading of Christina Rossetti’s “Remember” by the Ambassador. There was then a musical interlude



Sir Tim Laurence (seated right)

during which, without a band to support them, the Naples Military Wives Choir gave an impressive performance of the song “Hope for the World’s Despair”. The Second Reading and Address were followed by the Exhortation, solemnly delivered by our veteran Gordon Cruse, and the Last Post, 2 Minutes’ Silence and Reveille.

Laying of Official Wreaths, Prayers, and the hymn “Abide With Me”, followed by the Blessing concluded the service, and the Standard bearers left the cemetery, once again accompanied by the haunting sound of the lone piper.



Gordon Cruse giving the Exhortation with Bronya Elderkin, his granddaughter.



Jim Knox with Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP

After the Ceremony, we were taken to the official Reception at the Hotel Ristorante Al Boschetto, just outside Cassino, where we enjoyed a very good lunch and several members and Veterans had the opportunity to talk to the attending British dignitaries. Des and I shared a table with the lonely piper, and our three intrepid motor cyclists who had travelled from Britain and Bulgaria, two of them on vintage bikes to meet the group at Cassino, so we were all well entertained with tales of travel and adventure (and breaking down in some interesting places!).

I understand that Judith had a conversation with Tim Laurence about the lack of coverage given to the Italian campaign in comparison with the D Day celebrations – a conversation she followed up with the letter printed next, and which eloquently sums up how many of us feel.

The following day, a piece about Cassino and the commemorations appeared in the middle two pages of the Daily Express, (and many members sent word to someone at home to procure a few copies). The piece was well-written and featured a great photograph of our veteran Alex Sutton exchanging greetings with German former paratrooper Heino Niehaus, who had attended the service and been made welcome by the other Veterans.

Helen James

4 June 2019

The Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP
 Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence People & Veterans
 House of Commons
 London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Ellwood

I write on behalf of my members to thank you for attending the Service in Cassino War Cemetery to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the battles for Cassino. Despite little or no funding, the Defence Section in our Rome Embassy once again organised a service worthy of those we were there to remember. We owe them our sincere thanks.

Sadly it was not on a par with the 70th as we did not get the support we had on that occasion. The then Chief of the General Staff, Sir Peter Wall ordered a Guard of Honour, a Military Band and suggested a Royal Personage attend. We were fortunate to have HRH Prince Harry who, as a serving soldier, understood the horrendous fighting in unforgiving terrain that our veterans had lived through. It would appear we did not get the same support from Sir Peter's successor. After hearing we could not expect a member of the Royal Family to attend, I wrote to HRH Prince Charles asking for support and got the reply from his Equerry Commander Iain Kearsley - '*The Prince of Wales is keenly aware of this Anniversary as well as the considerable number of other 75th Anniversary events occurring in 2019. Attendance by His Royal Highness at key military commemorative events is driven by formal requests through the Royal Visits Committee. At this stage we are still waiting to receive the attendance requirements for 2019.*' It would appear the Italian Campaign did not fare favourably with the many requests received. A few months ago I was asked if we would be prepared to pay for our lunch following the service. I replied "Absolutely not" and referred them to a letter received from your Defence People Secretariat dated 27th March 2018. Subsequently the RBL must have used some D Day Revisited LIBOR funds to pay for 71 lunches for my party as I did not!

Successive governments have paid little or no regard to the 200,000 killed, injured or missing in just 129 days at Cassino. (Peter Caddick-Adams, Defence Academy of the UK, Shrivenham). I am at a loss as to understand why the fifth richest nation in the world cannot fund a service to remember men from Britain and the Commonwealth involved in the Italian Campaign but with a Gross National Product less than some multinational companies, New Zealand can afford all the activities that took place in Italy in May. I am embarrassed to admit that the chairs and gazebos we used in our service were ordered and paid for by the Government of New Zealand.

The final verse of the D Day Dodgers – sung to the tune of Lilli Marlene –

Look around the hillsides, through the mist and rain
 See the scattered crosses, some that bear no name.
 Heartbreak and toil and suffering gone,
 The lads beneath, they slumber on,
 They are the D Day Dodgers, who'll stay in Italy.

There are 55,000 British & Commonwealth fallen buried and commemorated in 37 CWGC Cemeteries in Italy (not including Airmen and Sailors commemorated elsewhere). Tens of thousands injured, countless thousands who have suffered a lifetime of what we have now come to know as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

It should not have taken a request from the daughter of a Royal Artillery Sergeant who served in North Africa and Italy to have to ask for a Service of Commemoration to mark the 75th anniversary of Cassino. I only hope that someone, somewhere will realise that the 2nd May 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of almost two years of bitter fighting and terrible loss of life that is the Italian Campaign – The Forgotten Campaign.

'A nation that forgets its past has no future' – *Winston Churchill*

Yours sincerely,

Judith Coote
 Hon. Secretary

Visit to Picinisco, May 2019

By Phil Soady



What to say about Picinisco? Up in the mountains, with a beautiful view and welcoming villagers. All true, but those words do not do justice to our little trip. We had a decidedly “iffy” weather forecast, showers and possible thunderstorms and so the party armed themselves with coats and brollies and boarded the coaches (and two cars), and headed off to Picinisco. The mountain was just as steep and the bends just as ... bendy(?) and the welcome just as warm. Those of us who had been before knew we were in for a treat. “First-timers” were in for something different and special.

We gathered in the square before marching (I use the word VERY loosely) up the hill towards the memorial. As we reached the top, the children came running past, waving their flags. The children played their parts well, their English being far better than my Italian for certain!

After the service, the laying of wreaths and the Mayor’s speech, the Society was thanked for a large parcel of books, pens, pencils etc., that had been sent to the school prior to our arrival. Judith was then surprised to be called upon to receive on behalf of the Society, a plaque from the Mayor dedicated to those who fought and died for Peace and Freedom. It was then Judith’s turn to give a speech in her finest Italian! The reason for this was to present the school with a laptop on behalf of the Society. To say that the teachers and children were pleased would be an understatement although I’m not sure if the children were more excited about the laptop or the four carrier bags of sweets we gave them.



Alex with Clive & Gillian

It was now time for lunch, and unlike previous years, we ate in the village hall. The marvellous spread had been set up there as rain had been forecast. Indeed, while we were eating, a thunderstorm started to roll up the valley bringing heavy rain and although some of us got a little wet going back down to the coach, it didn’t dampen our spirits, and, all in all, a good time was had by everyone.

As a postscript, why do we go to Picinisco? Thereby hangs a tale. The Monte Cassino Society was started just after the 60th anniversary because the Monte Cassino Veterans Association folded. When the time came for the first trip to Cassino, Judith was advised to use the Leabus Coach Company for transportation, as the MCVA had done for previous visits. The owner of Leabus, Flavio Capocci, said we should come to his home village and hold a little service, again as the MCVA had done. This is not only to honour the servicemen who fought to liberate Italy, but also to commemorate 19 people connected to Picinisco who were among over 800 souls lost when a ship carrying Italian internees to Canada was torpedoed and sank. The 19 names are read out by the children during the service.



Judith with the mayor of Picinisco

Sadly, Flavio died a couple of months before our visit in 2017 and we thought that the visits to Picinisco would stop. However, his widow, Leandra, her son Adriano and his wife Cinzia, insisted that we should come as planned and so our visits continue to be one of the highlights of any trip we make to Italy.

Letters

Visit to Monte Cassino, 15 – 22 May 2019

by Irene Dobson,
daughter of George M Standen, Grenadier Guards

My father was in the Grenadier Guards during WW2 and fought at the battle of Monte Cassino, so it has always been an ambition of mine to visit the Abbey and the areas covered by the Italian Campaign. Quite by accident, while researching tours to Italy that covered a visit to Cassino, I came across the Monte Cassino Society who were planning a visit in 2019 to mark the 75th anniversary of the battle. I felt it was an omen; something that was meant to be, so I contacted Judith to book a place on the tour and also to join the Monte Cassino Society.



I was not sure what to expect from the tour, and as a lone traveller was a bit apprehensive. At Naples airport I met Lesley, who was also travelling alone in memory of her father, and a friendship was immediately formed.

On the first full day there we attended the 75th anniversary service at the Cassino Commonwealth War Cemetery. The Cemetery was quite spectacular and a very moving experience which brought to life the realisation of so many young lives lost during the campaign. It was very moving to see quite a few veterans attending the service, four of whom were in our group.

After a reception at a local hotel, a few of us attended the New Zealand Commemorative Service at the Cemetery. This was another very moving service and was attended by representatives of the New Zealand Infantry Regiment and the Maori Battalion. The following day was for me, the highlight of the tour. A visit to the Abbey of Monte Cassino. As you step into the Abbey it simply takes your breath away. It is truly a magnificent sight. Looking at the pictures of the destruction which took place during the fighting, it is totally unbelievable what has been achieved in the rebuilding of the Abbey. While there we attended the New Zealand Service of Thanksgiving. It was a beautiful service and being surrounded by the magnificence of the Abbey I found it very emotional.

Another highlight of the tour was our visit to the village of Picinisco. Here we were made to feel so welcome and the courtesy of the villagers was wonderful. Seeing the school children participate in the memorial service was a lovely experience, and realising that the young are still brought up to remember. We were served with a very much appreciated buffet lunch after the service, provided by the inhabitants of the village. Unfortunately, due to a rather damp day, this was held in the school room and not the open air. However, this didn't dampen the significance of the occasion and the quality of the food on offer.



My visit to Monte Cassino was a wonderful week and full of unique experiences which went far beyond my expectations, leaving me with some special memories and many new friends. I felt humbled at what my father and all members of the Italian Campaign had to endure during their fight to overthrow the Germans.

I would like to send my sincere thanks to Judith and all the Committee Members of the Monte Cassino Society who worked tirelessly to arrange such a wonderful week in Cassino. Hopefully, God willing, I will see you all at the Arboretum next May.

VISIT TO THE SANGRO RIVER CEMETERY

By Judith Coote

An early start from our hotel in Cassino as we had a two hour drive over the mountains to the Adriatic Coast and Sangro River War Cemetery. The possibility of showers was forecast but we were fortunate, the Gods were with us again, the showers didn't materialize and we had a very pleasant drive over the Abruzzo Mountains.

We had arranged to meet with a local priest, Father Don Pietro and Mayor Nino Di Fonso with Councillor Sabrina Paolucci from the local council, at the Cemetery at midday. They were there to greet us when we arrived, together with an interpreter. We had been warned that extensive drainage work was in progress but in fact the Cemetery was looking pristine and as well cared for as usual. Unlike Cassino Cemetery where buildings have encroached on the perimeter, Sangro is in open countryside with views for miles around.

Father Don Pietro assisted in a simple service taken by Doreen and Judith, said prayers in Italian and read the same bible reading in Italian that Doreen read in English. He also blessed the 22 wreaths that Les West had brought from his Special Air Service Association branch to place on the graves of SAS men who fell at Sangro. Not for the first time that week we missed our dear friend Garth and his bugle but Phil came to the rescue with a recording of the Last Post and Reveille which appeared to come out of nowhere, was ethereal and certainly moving.

After a short time walking around the graves, placing our crosses and wreaths, we moved on to our lunch venue, a farmhouse more used to serving bed and breakfast clients than catering for a party of 60. The owner Luigi had warned we would not be able to take the bus up the lane to the farm and it was with some trepidation we arrived to find a variety of vehicles ready to take us there. Luigi and his young family were very welcoming and served us with a superb lunch which included lasagna, suckling pig and local sweet delicacies, all eaten in the garden under the olive trees - with local wine of course!

It was a long but very rewarding day.



How did you get to Cassino?

One of our supporters, Michael Leahy travelled from the UK on his 1943 ex-British Army BSA M20 Motorcycle to lay a wreath at the cemetery. It was a very slow trip as his bike was limited to 40 mph. It broke down several times and things started falling off but he made it. Mike was accompanied from the UK by a friend on a more modern bike and joined up in Italy with another rider from Bulgaria, also on a vintage bike.



Mike with his fellow motorcyclists

Unfortunately, Mike had to make the journey home alone as his friend from the UK had to return earlier and the other rider was going back to Bulgaria. Michael said that he would get as far as his bike allowed him and then would have to find alternative transport. I hope you made it home

OK Mike.



Ken & the BSA

Remembrance Service for the opening of the Amazon Bridge, Cassino, May 13th, 2019

by Helen James

Des and I were in Cassino with Frank de Planta's Battlefield tour for a few days before joining the Society at the Edra Palace Hotel, and during that time I attended a simple but very special memorial service to commemorate 75 years, to the minute, since the Amazon Bridge across the Rapido was completed. This terrific achievement "at all costs" enabled the first tanks and armour to cross, changing the course of the campaign and allowing the Allies to make the longed-for breakthrough into the Liri Valley and the road to Rome. There is an iconic painting by Terence Cuneo of the event, which succeeds in capturing the drama of the scene, and describes the horrific conditions in which the engineers completed the task under heavy fire, and with considerable loss of life.

On Monday 13th May we gathered for 5am at the 2nd Battalion **Beds and Herts** memorial near the River Rapido, (which was then Point 36, a German strongpoint and where the first tanks to cross Amazon bridge headed for). The site of Amazon Bridge can be seen from this point. The assembled group included sons, daughters and grandchildren of the sappers of 4th Brigade Division, 7, 59 and 225 Field Companies RE, who built the bridge. The service was short but poignant, and included the Last Post, two minutes' silence, Reveille, and Prayer for the Fallen.



At present there is no memorial to mark the actual spot where the Amazon Bridge was constructed. It stands on private land and access is not encouraged, but due to the dogged efforts of George Cowie and former sappers of the Shiny 7th Association, who were also present at the service, there is to be a permanent memorial at the site, which it is hoped will be unveiled in time for the Anniversary next year. The memorial is to be built by present day units of those who built the original Bailey bridge, and funding for it has been granted by the Royal Engineers Association.

Film companies interested in the Italian campaign

Following on from our reports of the Cassino commemorations and her letter to the Minister, it is nice to report on a more positive note that Judith has recently been approached by two film companies that are planning to make programmes about the Italian campaign, and asking for help with contacting veterans who may be prepared to talk about their experiences.

One company is doing a series of 8 programmes for the BBC, one of which they intend to be about the Italian campaign. The other company, Wall to Wall wants to do a documentary specifically on Cassino. Judith has put one of these companies in touch with some veterans, but if you or a veteran you know would like to find out more about the possibility of being involved in one of these productions, please contact us at the Society and we will do our best to put you in touch with them.

Also, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission continues to appeal for contributions to its first online sound archive "Voices of Liberation", as mentioned in page 3 of our Spring 2019 Newsletter. For more information and to get involved, please email: voicesofliberation@cwgc.org or call +44 1628 507249

Stop Press!

The following article appeared in The Daily Mail on Wednesday 19th June 2019 - Watch this space!

This page originally featured an article which appeared in the Daily Mail on Wednesday 19th June 2019, which we have removed in case of copyright restrictions.

The article was about a forthcoming series of 8 programmes to be made by the BBC about the Second World War. One of these is to focus on the Italian Campaign and will be presented by Gary Lineker, whose grandfather fought at Cassino.



A. G. Skinner MM, Royal Engineers
Attd. Special Air Services



The Essex Regiment Monument at
The Castle, Cassino

New Members

Gillian Bowtell, daughter of John Vernon, Royal Engineers

Clive Boyles, Friend of John Vernon, Royal Engineers

Nicola Cair, daughter of Frederick Butler, Hampshire Regiment

David Cair, son in law of Frederick Butler, Hampshire Regiment

Patricia Gudgeon, daughter of Ivor Cutler, Northamptonshire Regiment

Jan Richards, daughter of James (Jim) Knox, Parachute Regiment

Graham Spalding, son of William Arthur Hewitt, 6th Btn Queens Own Royal West Kent Rgt

In Memoriam

Michael Ralph, son of Capt. Norman Ralph, Royal Sussex Regiment

Peter Cox, 70th Medical, Royal Artillery

Ivor Cutler, The Northamptonshire Regiment

Jessie Cutler, wife of Ivor Cutler

Ronald Evans, 56th HAA, Royal Artillery

Frank Gent, B Squadron 2nd Lothians & Border Horse

Alan Hill, 3rd Btn, The Grenadier Guards



Jessie & Ivor Cutler pictured standing outside No.10 Downing St. on the day they met Gordon Brown, the then Prime Minister

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